

UNI FR  UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG	<p style="text-align: center;">PhD Position in Evolutionary Invasion Ecology</p>	
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Rationale:

Besides their great relevance for the environment, biological invasions have been recognized as unprecedented bio-geographical experiments to study fundamental ecological and evolutionary processes, such as local adaptation to the novel conditions in the introduced range. The proposed study capitalizes on ongoing studies in the framework of the EU-COST Action FA1203 on “Sustainable management of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in Europe (SMARTER; ragweed.eu), and will specifically focus on the recently and accidentally introduced ragweed leaf beetle *Ophraella communa* into Europe. This North-American insect has also been introduced into Asia where it is successfully used as a biological control agent. The planned study complements our findings on host impact and specificity of *Ophraella* made so far by including genetics and genomics. It is focusing on the potential of this biological control candidate to rapidly evolve and adapt to novel abiotic (temperature: spread potential) and biotic (host plants: non-target effects) conditions in view of rendering risk-benefit assessments in biological control more predictive.

We seek a highly motivated person to perform plant-insect herbivore experiments under controlled and field conditions, do lab work and prepare samples for genomic analyses and enjoy bioinformatics and statistics analyses jointly with the PostDoc. Indeed, the project is tightly linked to a PostDoc position within the same project (cf. separate advertisement).

Requirements

Basic knowledge of experimental design and statistical data analysis is a prerequisite, and knowledge of, and experience in one or several of the following areas of research is highly desirable: population ecology, population genetics, plant-herbivore interactions, molecular techniques, genomics, bioinformatics. Good writing skills in English is a must and familiarity with - or interest to learn - French and/or German a plus. Drivers license.

Salary and conditions

Salary dependent on age and status (gross salary in the first year about 42'000 €).
Start date: preferentially on 1 September 2016. The PhD position is for 3 years.

Applications

Applicants should send their CV, including publication list, a short motivation letter with a summary of research experience and interests, and the names of 3 professional referees to the email address below **as a single pdf-file before 22 May 2016**.

For further information, please contact:

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